

WITHERBY, H.F., JOURDAIN, F.C.R., TICEHURST, N.F. & TUCKER, B.W. 1943. *The Handbook of British birds*. 2nd impression. London: Witherby.

D.J. Pearson, Department of Biochemistry, Box 30197, Nairobi
G.C. Backhurst, Box 24702, Nairobi.

Received 10 May 1979.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *ANTHUS CERVINUS* AT NDOLA, ZAMBIA On 18 March 1979 at 17:30 I flushed a pipit *Anthus* sp. from short-grassed ground near a waterlogged area at the edge of Itawa swamps, Ndola (12°57'S, 27°47'E). My attention was drawn to the bird by its call on rising - a high-pitched rather metallic and not very loud single *see*, and by its markedly undulating flight. The bird flew for about 20 m, not rising more than 3 m above the ground. I flushed it about ten times, and each time it flew only a short distance before landing, either on a bare lump of earth or in grass. It did not run, and was only flushed on close approach. Eventually it flew into longer grass in a wetter area where it was impossible to see on the ground.

Excellent views of it on the ground and in flight were had through 10x glasses. It was smaller than a Plain-backed or Richard's Pipit (*A. leucophrys* or *A. novae-seelandiae*) both of which were present. The upperside, including crown and nape, was brown with broad dark centres to the feathers giving a heavily-streaked effect. The remiges and retrices were similar in colour to the back. In flight the rump was seen to be streaked. Pale edges to the greater and median wing coverts produced two pale lines across the folded wing. The superciliary stripe was broad and well-defined above and behind the eye, narrower and poorly-defined in front. The lores and ear-coverts were plain brown, rather dark, with a pale line below them and a more diffuse pale rear border to the ear coverts. The malar streak was well-defined and blackish. The underside had heavy black streaking in the form of large elongated spots beginning abruptly at the base of the throat and extending down the breast and all along the flanks below the folded wings; at least two lines of spots were visible along each flank. The spots were close together and some appeared to almost run into each other. The belly and under-tail coverts were white and unmarked. Chin and throat were unmarked and washed with buff, slightly pink, which extended over the spotted area of the breast and some way along the flanks, and also coloured the pale areas on the face and the superciliary stripe. Outer tail feathers were white.

The eye was dark, bill rather short and fine and appeared darkish, the legs were pale, the exact shade not determined. The bird called twice, the second time a slightly longer *seez* of the same pitch and quality as the first. Stance was not so upright as that of Richard's Pipit.

Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava* were in the same area on 18th. Heavy rain began at Ndola at 19:00 on 18th and continued for over 12 h. Neither the pipit nor the wagtails were present in the late afternoon of 19th at Itawa.

I am familiar with all the pipits which are known in Zambia and also with all the western Euroean species except *cervinus*. I sent a description and sketch of the bird to P.L. Britton, R.J. Dowsett, D.J. Pearson and D.I.M. Wallace, all of whom agree (*in litt.*) that it was *cervinus*. This species has not been recorded before from Zambia, and indeed Moreau (1972) gives its wintering range in East Africa only to northern Tanzania. P.L. Britton and D.J. Pearson (*in litt.*) give the most southerly East African records: Morogoro (6°50'S, 37°40'E) and Kilosa (6°50'S, 37°00'E) in the east and from Queen Elizabeth Park, Uganda in the west, where it is rare.

The Ndola record was some 1400 km south of Queen Elizabeth Park and 1200 km southwest of Kilosa. The habitat of light grass with cattle-trampled patches of mud was typical for the species in Africa (Moreau 1972).

P.B. Taylor, Box 415, Ndola, Zambia

Received 3 August 1979

Continued from inside front cover

'References'; the name(s) of the author(s) and date(s) of publication should be given in the text in the normal way. A list of the works concerned is given below.

Observers are asked to send in records of birds for inclusion in the annual East African bird report issue. Records which appear in the *National Museums of Kenya Department of Ornithology Newsletter* will be reviewed for the annual report but, in the case of rare birds or birds showing an extension of range, full details supporting the record should be submitted, whether the record is sent to the *Newsletter* or *Scopus* - this will save correspondence later on.

All contributions should be sent to Dr D.J. Pearson, Department of Biochemistry, University of Nairobi, Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya.

WORKS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE LISTED UNDER REFERENCES

FORBES-WATSON, A.D. 1971. *Skeleton checklist of East African birds*. Nairobi (duplicated). = Forbes-Watson 1971.

HALL, B.P. & MOREAU, R.E. 1970. *An atlas of speciation in African Passerine birds*. London: British Museum (Nat. Hist.). = Hall & Moreau 1970.

JACKSON, F.J. 1938. *The birds of Kenya Colony and the Uganda Protectorate*. 3 vols. London: Gurney & Jackson. = Jackson 1938

MACKWORTH-PRAED, C.W. & GRANT, C.H.B. 1957 & 1960. *African handbook of birds*. Series I, vols 1 & 2. *Birds of eastern and north eastern Africa*. 2nd Edition. London: Longmans Green & Co. = Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1957 and/or 1960.

MOREAU, R.E. 1966. *The bird faunas of Africa and its islands*. London: Academic Press. = Moreau 1966.

_____ 1972. *The Palaearctic-African bird migration systems*. London: Academic Press. = Moreau 1972.

WHITE, C.M.N. 1960. A check list of the Ethiopian Muscicapidae (Sylviinae) Part I *Occasional papers of the National Museums of Southern Rhodesia* 3 (24B): 399-430. = White 1960.

_____ 1961. *A revised check list of African broadbills....etc.* Lusaka: Government Printer. = White 1961.

_____ 1962a. A check list of the Ethiopian Muscicapidae (Sylviinae) Parts II and III. *Occasional papers of the National Museums of Southern Rhodesia* 3 (26B): 653-738. = White 1962a.

_____ 1962b. *A revised check list of African shrikes....etc.* Lusaka: Government Printer. = White 1962b.

_____ 1963. *A revised check list of African flycatchers....etc.* Lusaka: Government Printer. = White 1963.

_____ 1965. *A revised check list of African Non-Passerine birds*. Lusaka: Government Printer. = White 1965.

WILLIAMS, J.G. 1967. *A field guide to the National Parks of East Africa*. London: Collins. = Williams 1967.

_____ 1969. *A field guide to the birds of East and Central Africa*. 4th impression. London: Collins. = Williams 1969.